



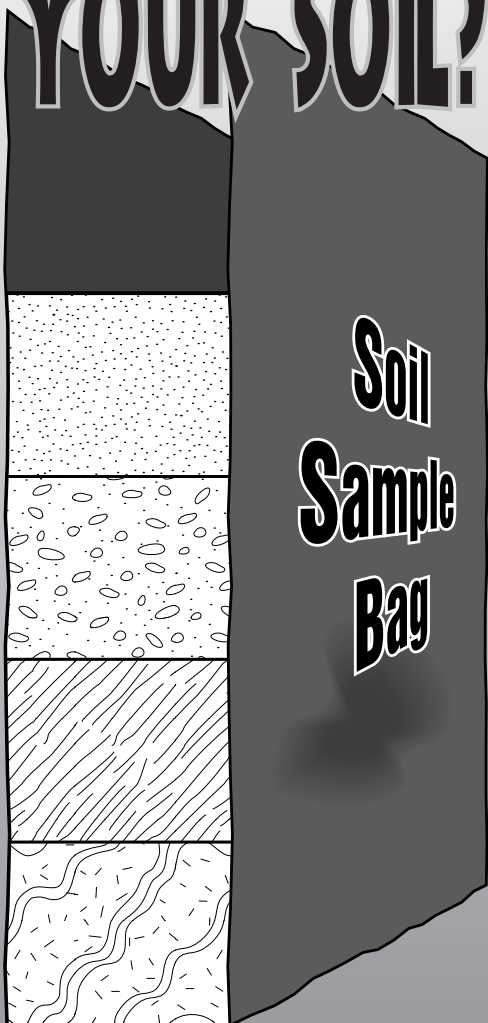
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

Leaflet 142

WHY TEST YOUR SOIL?



WHY TEST YOUR SOIL?

Soil testing gives homeowners and farmers important information. It can provide the basis for making informed decisions concerning:

- How much lime to use in lawns, flower beds or fields.
- How much fertilizer to use on lawns, flowers, vegetables, shrubs and crops.
- How to adjust the soil pH for optimum growth of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons and others.
- How to apply soil amendments and generally improve soil quality.
- Other nutrients that are lacking or in excess in the soil.

The service is offered by the University of Maryland Soil Testing Lab, which is part of the Cooperative Extension Service located in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

HOW TO GO ABOUT IT

Soil samples are collected by the client and mailed to the lab for analysis. The first step is to request an information sheet and a mailing container from either the county Extension office (offices are listed on reverse) or the Home and Garden Information Center (1-800-342-2507).

Follow the directions on the back of the information sheet in order to collect a proper soil sample. Fill in the front of the sheet so that proper recommendations can be given for what it is you are growing.

Mail the sample along with the information sheet and a check made out to the University of Maryland in the proper amount (see "How Much Does It Cost?") to:

Soil Testing Laboratory
The University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

BASIC LAWN AND GARDEN PACKAGE

The basic test package for lawn and garden samples is \$5. It includes a determination of pH, texture and levels of phosphorus, potassium and magnesium. These tests are usually all that is needed to give proper lime and fertilizer recommendations. In about a week, results and recommendations are returned to you by mail.

BASIC FIELD CROP PACKAGE

The basic test package for field samples costs \$6. It includes the above tests plus calcium levels and the percentage of organic matter.

In some cases, extra tests may be needed. These are available and listed on the information sheet. Advice as to whether these are needed can be obtained from the county Extension office or the Home and Garden Information Center (1-800-342-2507).

P87/V97

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COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES

ALLEGANY COUNTY(301) 724-3320
701 Kelly Road, Suite 101
Cumberland, MD 21502

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY(410) 222-6758
Arundel Center Northmetro (301) 970-8250 x6757
101 Crain Highway, NW, Suite 307
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

BALTIMORE CITY(410) 396-1753
17 S. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

BALTIMORE COUNTY(410) 666-1022
9811 Van Buren Lane
Cockeysville, MD 21030

CALVERT COUNTY(410) 535-3662
P.O. Box 486metro (301) 855-1150
150 Main Street, Suite 300
County Services Plaza
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

CAROLINE COUNTY(410) 479-4030
207 South Third Street
Denton, MD 21629

CARROLL COUNTY(410) 848-4611
700 Agriculture CenterBalt. metro (410) 875-2801
Westminster, MD 21157

CECIL COUNTY(410) 996-5280
Cecil County Court House
129 E. Main Street, Room 7
Elkton, MD 21921

CHARLES COUNTY(301) 934-5403
9375 Chesapeake Streetmetro (301) 753-8195
Suite 119
LaPlata, MD 20646

DORCHESTER COUNTY(410) 228-8800
County Office Building
P.O. Box 299
501 Court Lane, Room 208
Cambridge, MD 21613

FREDERICK COUNTY(301) 694-1594
330 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD 21702

GARRETT COUNTY(301) 334-6960
1916 Maryland Highway
Suite A
Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

HARFORD COUNTY(410) 638-3255
P.O. Box 663
2335 Rock Spring Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050

HOWARD COUNTY(410) 313-2707
3525-L Ellicott Mills Drivemetro (301) 621-4300
Ellicott City, MD 21043

KENT COUNTY(410) 778-1661
203 Calvert Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

MONTGOMERY COUNTY(301) 590-9638
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY(301) 868-9366
6707 Groveton Drive
Clinton, MD 20735

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY(410) 758-0166
505 Railroad Avenue
Suite 4
Centreville, MD 21617

ST. MARY'S COUNTY(301) 475-4482
21580 Peabody Street
P.O. Box 663
Leonardtown, MD 20650

SOMERSET COUNTY(410) 651-1350
30730 Park Drive
Princess Anne, MD 21853

TALBOT COUNTY(410) 822-1244
P.O. Box 519
125 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601

WASHINGTON COUNTY(301) 791-1304
1260 Maryland Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

WICOMICO COUNTY(410) 749-6141
P.O. Box 1836
Salisbury, MD 21802

WORCESTER COUNTY(410) 632-1972
P.O. Box 219
Snow Hill, MD 21863

HOME AND GARDEN CENTER1-800-342-2507
12005 Homewood Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042